

Senate Resolution 1200

By: Senators Thomas of the 54th, Unterman of the 45th and Goggans of the 7th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Comprehensive Medical Education Study Committee; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, physicians play a critical role in ensuring that all Georgians receive quality
4 health care; and

5 WHEREAS, the state's population is one of the fastest growing populations in the nation and
6 has increased by almost 900,000 people since 2000; and

7 WHEREAS, these new citizens and all those who have called Georgia home for years will
8 need access to physicians in future years; and

9 WHEREAS, the health care needs of the citizens will grow substantially in future years as
10 the state's population ages; and

11 WHEREAS, the state's ratio of physicians to population ranks 37th in the nation as of 2004;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, this ranking raises concerns that the state lacks the physician work force that
14 its citizens need; and

15 WHEREAS, the state has a well established and diverse medical education system; and

16 WHEREAS, this medical education system has grown only in recent years to account for
17 Georgia's increased population; and

1 WHEREAS, the expansions of this medical education system have occurred to a greater
2 extent in increases in medical schools and medical school enrollment than in residency
3 programs; and

4 WHEREAS, the poor balance of these expansions and the unknown impact of ongoing
5 expansions across the medical education system raises concerns that Georgia does not and
6 will not possess the medical education system it needs to meet the demand for physicians in
7 the state.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
9 Comprehensive Medical Education Study Committee to be composed of four members of the
10 Senate, to be appointed by the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate. The President Pro
11 Tempore shall designate a member of the Senate to serve as chairperson of the committee.
12 The committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall study the current physician capacity
14 in the state; assess the growth trends of this work force to determine if Georgia will have the
15 physicians and types of physicians it will need in the future; review the current productive
16 capacity of the medical education system, giving special consideration to the mix of primary
17 care and physician specialists and the potential imbalance between medical schools and
18 residency programs; and look at cost-effective solutions to addressing any observed shortfalls
19 in the productive capacity of the state's medical education system. At the conclusion of its
20 work, the committee shall produce a report on the capacity of the medical education system
21 and needed changes to be made to this system to ensure it can produce sufficient numbers
22 of physicians to meet Georgia's needs and shall outline strategies to build any needed
23 enhancements to capacity.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the committee shall receive the
25 allowances authorized for legislative members of interim legislative committees but shall
26 receive the same for not more than five days unless additional days are authorized. The
27 funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
28 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
29 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
30 made on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall hold no more than five meetings
31 and shall stand abolished on December 31, 2006.